

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. THAI STUDENTS PROVOKE REGIME

EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS PROVIDED AN EXPLANATION OF THE GENESIS OF THE VIOLENT CLASHES OCCURRING IN BANGKOK BETWEEN STUDENTS AND POLICE. THE SITUATION WAS TRIGGERED BY A MOCK HANGING STAGED BY STUDENT ACTIVISTS OCTOBER 4 AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY USING A STUDENT WHO RESEMBLED THE CROWN PRINCE. PRIME MINISTER SENI ANNOUNCED ON TV THAT A CRIME OF LESE MAJESTE HAD BEEN COMMITTED AND THAT THE POLICE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LOCATE THE CULPRIT. THE MOCK HANGING EPISODE HAS BACKFIRED ON THE STUDENT ACTI-
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VISTS AND HAS SET IN MOTION A STILL FLUID SEQUENCE OF

EVENTS IN WHICH OVER 200 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND
NUMEROUS CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON BOTH STUDENTS AND
POLICE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 27660, 10/6.

2. ITALY: ANDREOTTI AND COMMUNISTS PLAY TUG OF WAR
OVER PRICES

FOR THE FIRST TIME, PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI CLASHED
OPENLY LAST WEEK WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN A STRUGGLE OVER

THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PRICES. EMBASSY
ROME REPORTS:

--THE PCI ASSERTED THE PRINCIPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY
CONTROL AND COORDINATION SINCE, GIVEN ITS DISCI-
PLINED ATTENDANCE, THE PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY POWER
EXCEEDS ITS SIZABLE NUMERICAL STRENGTH.

--ANDREOTTI, HIS HAND STRENGTHENED BY HIS MASTERFUL
OCTOBER 1 SPEECH, AGREED TO CONSULT WITH PARLIAMENT
AND THE TRADE UNIONS BUT INTENDS TO CONTINUE SETTING
PRICE POLICY.

--THE INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES A FACT OF LIFE FOR
ANDREOTTI--AS A PRICE FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE DC, THE
PCI IS DETERMINED TO SHIFT FISCAL AND ECONOMIC
DECISION-MAKING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO THE PARLIA-
MENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 16279, 10/5. ROBINSON

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